(d) whether Government propose to take some steps to implement its commitment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In a news item which appeared in The Hindustan Times' dated 16th August, 1996, the Chairperson "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" is reported to have said that the Government has neither initiated any steps towards eradicating child labour nor shown any trace of political will to do so.

(c) to (e) Government has been consistently following a proactive child labour policy as per the various provisions in the constitution. The steps taken by Central Government for withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations include (a) ensuring compliance of the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and the provisions concerning children in other labour laws. (b) sanctioning of 76 National Child Labour Projects to cover about 1.5 lakh children in the child labour endemic States and (c) sanctioning of funds for carrying out surveys in 123 districts and for awareness generation activities in 133 districts.

Periodical review on the performance of PSUs

2815. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether periodical review is being made by Government on the performances of different public sector units;

(b) if so, when was the last review made; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Review on performance of public sector enterprises is a continuous process. The concerned Administrative Ministries review their performance periodically. Also an annual report on the working of central public sector undertakings of the Government is presented in the Parliament every year titled "Public Enterprises Survey". The Public Enterprises Survey for 1994-95 was laid on the Table of the both Houses of Parliament on 19.7.1996.

Monitoring the rising prices of Essential Commodities

2816. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of essential commodities the prices of which are monitored by the Central Government in the country;

(b) whether prices of essential commodities have been increasing in the country during the last six months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures Government proposes to control the prices of essential commodities in the country to protect the interest of the weaker sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The retail prices of 12 essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, arhar, gram, groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, tea, potatoes, onions and salt at selected centres are being monitored by the Government on daily basis. During the period 9.3.96 to 10.8.96, varying increases have been observed in the wholesale price indices of these commodities. The increase in the prices of some commodities like pulses, edible

oils etc. are mainly attributed to gap in demand and supply, near stagnancy in production, hike in minimum support/ procurement prices of agriculture commodities. The supply of most of the above commodities is very comfortable during Jan.—March, every year due to flush supply of Kharif Crop like Masoor, Arhar, Rice, Maize, Sugarcane and Groundnut Oil etc. but the same gets reduced with the onset of lean supply season from April onward till the end of October every year.

(d) With a view to keeping the prices of essential commodities under check, the Public Distribution System is being strengthened to provide foodgrains at cheaper rates to the poor strata of the society. Besides, stringent actions are being taken against the speculators, hoarders and traders indulging in unfair trade practices. The essential commodities are also being supplied through Co-operative Stores, Mobile stores, Kendriya Bhandars etc. at reasonable prices. Essential commodities like pulses and edible oils are being imported in desired quantities to augment their supplies in the domestic market. The efficacy of these measures can not be judged in short period. They have longer perspective and hence the price rise during the entire year will be a better parameter. Since the controlling of price is the ongoing process of the Government policy, temporary variations in prices are inescapable.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में मंडल आयोग की सिफारिशों का कार्यान्वयन

2817. **श्री नागमणि:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उनके मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत उपक्रमों में मंडल आयोग की सिफारिश के अनुसार आरक्षण संबंधी उपबंध को कार्यान्वित नहीं किया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने स्थिति की समीक्षा की है और इस पर कोई कार्रवाई की है; और

(ग) आरक्षण व्यवस्था का अनुपालन करने वाले और न करने वाले उपक्रमों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा-पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Mis-utilisation of grants/loans in KVIC

2818. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Corporation has sufficient controls to ensure that large grants, loans etc. are not mis-utilised;

(b) if so, details of such procedures available to control fraud;

(c) whether it is a fact that complaints have been made by some employees of fraud in some districts of Andhra Pradesh under the jurisdiction of Visakhapatnam Office;

(d) if so, whether any vigilance enquiry has been initiated; and

(e) number of arrests effected on such complaints of fraud in 1994-95 and 1995-96, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to ensure that the funds disbursed to various KVIBs and KVIC's recognised institutions are not mis-utilised, KVIC has posted Audit and Inspection teams and technical staff at its State and regional Offices for conducting Audit/Technical inspections, financial propriety and certification audit of the implementing Agencies.

(c) Yes, Sir. Certain complaints on procedural irregularities allegedly committed by the regional office, KVIC, Visakhapatnam have been received.